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Attorney General Biden to receive information on sex offenders who use MySpace Social networking website to provide names of convicted sex offenders who are registered users

Wilmington, DE – MySpace has agreed to turn over the names and other identifying information of convicted sex offenders who use the popular social networking website, Attorney General Joseph R. Biden, III announced today.

Attorney General Biden will share the information of convicted sex offenders provided by MySpace, including their email and IP addresses, with law enforcement agencies in Delaware. The data will be used to identify offenders who may have violated their sentences by using computers or contacting minors.

Attorney General Biden commended MySpace for taking this important safety step. “Millions of kids use MySpace to connect with each other and to share information about themselves and, as a result, they are vulnerable to predators who can and do use this site to contact them. In 2006 alone, the media reported almost 100 criminal incidents across the U.S. involving adults who used MySpace to prey or to attempt to prey on children. I am pleased that MySpace has agreed to work with us to protect our children.”

MySpace’s agreement to provide this information follows a May 14, 2007 letter demanding that MySpace turn over information about sex offenders who use its site. Several states have pushed social networking websites to take active steps to protect their users from threats by sexual predators who use the internet to contact children.

MySpace has identified thousands of registered sex offenders who have joined its site and is working to delete these users’ profiles and to bar their access. MySpace will continue to actively search its site for users who are registered sex offenders and will provide information about all offenders it identifies to the states.

Attorney General Biden and other states’ attorneys general remain concerned about sex offenders who may be using aliases and misrepresenting their ages to gain access to MySpace. Attorneys general continue to urge MySpace to take additional safety steps, including requiring parental permission for children who wish to use the site.

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